



**The Tennessee Department of Labor
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NEWS RELEASE

Phil Bredesen
Governor

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James Neeley
Commissioner

Consolidation of Labor & Workforce Development Offices Saves Taxpayer Money, Offers Greater Service and Convenience

Nashville-Governor Phil Bredesen and Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner James Neeley announced the opening of the new Knoxville office building and Tennessee Career Center at University Avenue. By consolidating operations, the state will save approximately \$75,000 in taxpayer funds annually. Statewide, the consolidation of the Departments offices has saved approximately \$600,000 a year in rent.

The new building will house Tennessee Occupational Safety & Health Administration, Labor Standards, Workers' Compensation, and their legal staff, and the department's One-Stop Tennessee Career Center.

"I'm determined that under this administration, we're going to be better stewards of the taxpayers' money. This is just one example of that theory in action," Bredesen said. "More importantly, in addition to saving money, this office will help bring greater convenience and service to its customers."

"This project will not only make things easier for workers and employers, but by consolidating our three offices into one location, we reduce our square footage and save the state close to \$75,000 a year in rent," said Commissioner Neeley. He went on to say, "The consolidation of our offices into one location has been our goal not only in Knoxville, but with all our One-Stop Career Centers across the state of Tennessee."

The Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development is working together with Knoxville's Community Development Corporation on this project. CEO and President Alvin Nance said, "Part of the mission of our Hope VI project is to provide training and job assistance to families participating in the self-sufficiency program. The relocation of the Department of Labor & Workforce Development offices will provide training within walking distance and future job opportunities to residents moving back to Mechanicsville."

Knoxville Representative Joe Armstrong introduced the governor at the grand opening. He said, "The groundbreaking is the culmination of the State of Tennessee, the City of Knoxville, and the Mechanicsville community working together to make the Department of Labor and Workforce Development offices easier to access, near the downtown business community, and close to public transportation. This is a win-win situation for everyone."

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